

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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TAGS: PINT, KS PFOR, HUMAN RIGHTS

SUBJ: NATIONAL ASSEMBLY JOINT COMMITTEE INTERPELLATION

DISCUSSES ROK/U.S. RELATIONS.

REF: SEOUL 3553 (290924Z APR 77)

SUMMARY: APRIL 29-30 NATIONAL ASSEMBLY INTERPELLATIONS
OPENED PANDORA'S BOX OF MAJOR AND MINOR CRITICISM OF CURRENT
ISSUES WITH NDP INTRODUCING HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS AND
ALL MAJOR PARTIES INCLUDING GOVERNMENT AIRING GRIEVANCES
ABOUT U.S./ROK RELATIONS. END SUMMARY.

1. APRIL 29 AND 30 INTERPELLATION IN JOINT FOREIGN
AFFAIRS AND NATIONAL DEFENSE COMMITTEE SESSION ALLOWED
NATIONAL ASSEMBLYMEN OF BOTH GOVERNMENT AND OPPOSITION TO
ATTACK ON SEVERAL CURRENT ISSUES. PRIMARILY REVOLVING
ABOUT STATE OF U.S./ROK RELATIONS. NDP INTRODUCED KIND
OF SNIPER ATTACK IT HAS NOT EMPLOYED RECENTLY. ROKG
MINISTERS REMAINED ON WHILE FIRM AND COOL UNDER FIRE,
USING OPPORTUNITY (AND PERHAPS WELCOMING IT) TO SEND
UP ITS OWN CRITICAL ROCKETS. MAIN ISSUES NOT REPORTED
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IN DETAIL BY REF ARE AS FOLLOWS:

2. HUMAN RIGHTS: NDP'S HANYONG-SU ASKED "IF IT WERE NOT
IN ROK INTERESTS TO IMPROVE HUMAN RIGHTS TO BETTER
RELATIONS WITH U.S. WHOSE PRESIDENT EXPRESSES SO MUCH
CONCERN ABOUT ISSUE." PRIME MINISTER CHOE KYU-HA
RESPONDED THAT SUCH AN ISSUE SHOULD NOT BE DISCUSSED IN

OEN DEBATE AND ADDED USUSAL CAVEAT THAT IT IS IMPROPER FOR ANY COUNTRY TO MEDDLE IN ANOTHER'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS. NDP HEAD YI CHOL-SUNG TOOK MORE AGGRESSIVE ATTACK THAN USUAL WITH STRONG SUGGESTION THAT GOVT. MAKE STRENUOUS EFFORT TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH U.S., SAYING "THIS COULD BE MADE SUCCESSFUL BY IMPROVING DOMESTIC SITUATION. YI SAID "TRIAL OF THOSE INVOLVED IN MYONGDONG INCIDENT HAS ENDED, BUT NOTHING HAS CHANGED IN CONNECTION WITH ROK IMAGE OVERSEAS." IN THEME ECHOED BY MANY NDP ASSEMBLYMEN, YI SAID UNITY OF PEOPLE MUST BE EARNED, NOT WROUGHT BY GOVT. FIAT. SPEAKER TOUGH ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND THAT YI HAD CLAIMED THERE WAS INTERNATIONAL LAW HIGHER THAN ROK LAW. SPEAKER ADDED THAT PRIMIN CHOE KYU-HA HAD NOT ACQUITTED HIMSELF WELL IN HIS REPLIES, SIMPLY REPEATING OVER AND OVER THAT DISSIDENTS VIOLATED KOREA LAW.

3. FRASER SUBCOMMITTEE VISIT. IN RESPONSE TO INQUIRY WHETHER FRASER COMMITTEE PROPOSED TEAM TO PROBE HUMAN RIGHTS MATTERS IN KOREA, FONMIN PAK TONG-CHIN SAID THAT IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR SUCH A COMMITTEE TO DO WHAT IT PLEASED IN KOREA, THAT GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT SUBMIT TO INTERROGATION AND THAT IT SAW NO REASON FOR TIS CITIZENS TO COMPLY WITH REQUESTS TO SEE SUCH COMMITTEE. PAK ALSO SAID HE WAS READY TO TAKE ACTION AGAINST ANY (VISITOR) WHOSE ACTIONS DID NOT COMPLY WITH STATED PURPOSES OF VISIT.

4. U.S. TROOP WITHDRAWAL OF TROOPS. ASSEMBLYMAN SIN SANG-U (NDP) ASKED IF GOVERNMENT WERE INTERESTED IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OPENING DIALOGUE WITH OPPOSITION ON TROOP REDUCTION ISSUE. WHAT WAS U.S. RESPONSE TO PRESIDENT PAK'S STATEMENT THAT U.S. TROOPS IN KOREA WERE IMPORTANT IN CONTAINING SOVIET INFLUENCE? HOW DOES GOVERNMENT DEFINE "PRIOR CONSULTATIONS WITH U.S. OVER WITHDRAWAL AND WILL CONSULTATIONS TREAT BASIC TIME TABLE OR PROBLEMS INHERENT IN WITHDRAWAL ITSELF? FONMIN ASSURED COMMITTEE THAT BOTH ASPECTS OF WITHDRAWAL WOULD BE DISCUSSED. DEFENSE MINISTER CONFIRMED THAT U.S. SAID IT WAS PREPARING WITHDRAWAL PROPOSAL BUT THAT THERE HAD NOT BEEN CONSULTATIONS WITH U.S. TO DATE.

5. U.S./ROK RELATIONS. DRP AND YUCHONGHOE MEMBERS WEIGHED IN WITH COMPLAINTS ABOUT KOREAN POLICIES AS REPORTED IN U.S. PRESS, ASKING ALSO WHY "SOME PROMINENT AMERICANS ARE TRYING TO GIVE BLOOD ALLY KOREA SUCH A HARD TIME?" YUCHONGHOE'S O CHUNG-KUN SAID THAT NEW YORK TIMES ON APRIL 23 HAD CALLED KOREA POLICE STATE. MR. O ASKED WHAT WAS GOVT. RESPONSE TO THIS? ARE YOU WILLING TO CLOSE BRANCH OFFICE OF SUCH A NEWSPAPER? TENOR OF

REMARKS IN COMMITTEE CAN BE JUDGED BY FACT ROKG AGAIN HAD
TO ANSWER QUESTIONS ABOUT ALLEGED U.S. BUGGING OF BLUE
HOUSE. FONMIN REPORTED THAT UNDERSECRETARY HABIB HAD
DENIED THIS. FONMIN ALSO REPEATED HIS PAST
OBSERVATION THAT U.S. PUBLIC'S CRITICISM OF REVEREND
MUN SUN-MYONG WOULD HAVE STOPPED EARLY ON HAD
MUN BEEN CAUCASIAN. HE MADE REMARKS IN CONTEXT
OF DISASSOCIATING GOVT. AGAIN FROM PAK TONG-SON SCANDAL.
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